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AEON'S CREW DEFENDED BY CAPTAIN DOWNIE

In recent mail advices from Sydney

are conflicting statements regarding the conduct of the Chinese members of the crew of the British S. S. Acon, after the wreck of the latter on Christmas Island. On the one hand, the Chinese are described as a mutinous gang, armed with revolvers and enives, defying authority; while others laud them as a band of self-sacrificing heroes who never wearied in the attentions on the passengers and officers. "It's the greatest rot I ever heard," Captain Downie of the Aeon s quoted as saying, adding: "They worked splendidly, and I am perfectly satisfied with their conduct right through. The statement that the men were armed with revolvers and knives, and that I was afraid of them, is a deliberate fabrication, and I never made any complaint or disparaging remark concerning them. How these tales have been circulated I know spending lots of money for medicine not; but I say again they are absolutely untrue. I never saw either a revolver or a knife in the possession of the men, and if they had them I knew nothing of it.

"The Chinese did not make a scene when the vessel struck, nor did they rush the lifeboats. On the contrary, they were amenable to discipline, and behaved coolly and rationally, obeying every order. Acting on my instructions they handed round the lifebelts to the women first and assisted them to put them on. All the passengers were supplied before the Chinese thought of themselves. There was never a panie on board, and the Chinese did not manifest great fear. I deny in toto the statements to the contrary, and repeat that I am well satisfied with the men. They worked unceasingly while on the island, not only for themselves, but for all of us, and as a matter of fact they kept us supplied all the time with fresh fish."

"The Chinese never did five minutes' work except for themselves during the nine weeks and five days that we were on Christmas Island," Norman Yates, one of the passengers, is reported as saying.

"They proved to be great thieves,

and broached the cargo on the first day that they were sent on board to get provisions. They took revolvers and knives from the cargo, and were wearing them in their belts, but I don't know whether they obtained any ammunition. I never heard that they actually threatened anyone with the firearms. The Chinese acted disgracefully-it was common talk. They rushed the lifeboats as soon as the Aeon struck, and while it is true that they supplied belts to the lady passengers, they looked after themselves before attending to the male passengers or the officers. The Chinese knew that their wages ceased on the date of the wreck, and the policy they adopted was 'no pay, no work.' The only fresh fish they supplied us with was what they did not wish for themselves. We did not want it either, for we had ample supplies of tinned salmon and herrings, and merely accepted the offerings because we did not want to hurt their feelings.

"You ask Captain Downie, He knows just as well as we do the disgraceful manner in which the Chineso conducted themselves.

"It is quite true that there was some amount of ill-feeling among the officers of the Acon," Mr. Yates went on to say, "and I know that quarrels took place on Christmas Island. An engineer, for instance, disputed the captain's authority on the island. You are captain of the ship, but you are not captain of this island,' he said with emphasis. 'Jack is as good as his master ashore, the engineer added, and the remark completely broke Captain Downie up. The commander was much depressed during

the remainder of that day. "There was a free fight between a Samoan passenger and the Chinese chief steward in connection with some

KAWAJIAN BAND PLAYS

The Moana Hotel is filling up gradually with winter guests, the last steamers from the Coast having brought many new visitors to Honolulu. In honor of their arrival, and following out the usual schedule of rotating concerts at the parks and hotels, the Hawaiian band will play this evening in the little park of the Moana Hotel. The program is as follows:

Intermezzo-Clouds of Roses...Bergere Chorus—Tannhauser Wagner Selection-Faust Gounod Part II.

Vocal-Hawaiian Songs. . Ar. by Berger Selection-Il Trovatore Verdi The Patrol of the Scouts.... Boccalari Waltz-May I have the Pleasure, Linke The Star Spangled Banner.

The Army board revisited Leilehna vesterday with reference to the site or the Cavalry cantonment, and to arrange for the location of the quarters of the laborers. That the Army officers the work is evident, as three horses are being sent to Wanalua today by train for their use.

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WE ARE OFFERING Hats for Men

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